

Humanizing Gateway to the Land of the Free



Below—Immigrant boys playing leap frog while one of the assistants to the Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island acts as referee.



Top—Types of future Americans listening to an address on the wonderful land in which they are about to begin a new life.

Center—These foreign-born boys never saw a football until they arrived at the island, but they take to the great American fall sport like ducks to water.

Bottom—The daily phonograph concerts on the island prove a potent attraction to the little people from overseas. Jazz records seem to be the most popular.

CRICKET is the national game of England and is comparatively little known in this country. It is rarely played here except by the clubs of Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York and a few other places where there is a colony of Englishmen.

Mr. H. A. Hutchinson, in his book on cricket, observes at the outset that:

"Cricket began when first a man monkey, instead of catching the cocoanuts thrown at him playfully by a fellow anthropoid, hit them away from him with a stick which he happened to be holding in his hand. But the date of the occurrence is not easy to ascertain and, therefore, it is impossible to fix the date of the invention of cricket. The first use of the name 'cricket' for any game is indeed a matter entirely of conjecture. But whether the name was applied by reason of the cricket or crooked stick, which was the early form of the bat, or whether from the cross stick used as the primitive bail, or from the cricket or stool at which the bowler aimed the ball, really it is not very much matter."

It is evident that the present form of cricket is an outgrowth of an athletic sport of very ancient times. It is well known that some of the Olympic games of the Greeks included striking a ball with a stick or club, and that the Persians also played a very similar game. The Saxons and also the Normans used to play at "club ball," as they called it, which may have been the father or, at least, one of the ancestors of the cricket of today.

A writer has stated that "the earliest mention of cricket playing in England is in the poetic writings of Joseph of Exeter, 1180, who sings in old style:

"The youth at cricks did play
Throughout the merry day."

Chaucer also mentions cricket in his "Canterbury Tales."

"In a proclamation by Edward III, 1363, cricket is alluded to under two Latin words denoting the ball and bat sport."

"In the university laboratory at Oxford," says Joseph Strutt in his "Sports and Pastimes," published in 1801, "is a manuscript dated 1344, which represents the figure of a monk in the act of bowling a ball to an-

The Origin of Sports

By FRANK DORRANCE HOPLEY

CRICKET

other who elevates a straight bat to strike it. The game is called "club ball," and the score is made by hitting and running as in cricket."

In 1685, in a book entitled "The Mysteries of Love and Elegance," by Edward Phillips (nephew of the poet Milton), is found a somewhat remarkable statement in respect to some difficulty which he had experienced with a lady:

"Would my eyes had been beat out of my head with a cricket ball, the day before I saw thee."

That the game had an early hold upon the nobility is evidenced from an announcement in *The Postman* of July 24, 1705, which reads:

"This is to give notice that a match at cricket will be plaid between eleven gentlemen of the West part of Kent and those of Chatham, for 11 guineas a man, the game to take place at Maulden in Kent on August 7th next."

To trace the origin of any game which, while not born complete, has progressed by the slow process of evolution, cannot be done successfully unless the growth of each component of the game is accounted for. Mr. Read has done this in an interesting manner. He takes first the evolution of the bat.

"With regard to the bat, this would first of all take the form of a piece of stick; then something stronger, in the shape of a club would be used, and as the bowling improved, something that offered a better protection to the wicket became necessary, and then took the form

of a bat, a name possibly derived from the fact that first of all it was shaped out of a common piece of wood, known in all times as a batten.

"Before 1745 a bat of any size could be used. Later with improved methods of bowling, bats were built more upright and of a tougher kind of wood, and it is to J. Small, Jr., the celebrated cricketer, and batmaker of Petersfield that we owe the original bat with a shoulder."

The art of bowling has also grown with the growth of the game itself. Mr. Read says that "it was not until the end of the last century (the 18th) that bowling became much of an art. Home tosses and half volleys were probably unknown, and the first step toward improvement from the common grounder or sneak was the pitch and lob. Then followed some sort of twist and a rude imitation of throwing, or round arm bowling."

"As to the wickets, in the early days of Britain, they were represented by a trunk of a tree; following this primitive idea would be two pieces of stick—two straight ones with a piece laid across the top, or anything in the shape of an obstacle for the bowler to aim at. As early as 1705 the wickets were pitched at the same length as they are at present."

The game of cricket seems to have flourished to a greater or less degree wherever Englishmen were found. In South Africa, New Zealand and in Australia it is played with as much zest as in the mother country. In the West Indies, every town of any size has its cricket club. In Trinidad, Barbadoes and Demerara there are clubs composed of Negroes who have developed into as fine players as the whites.

In the United States, however, the game has but a small following. It does not appeal to the average American, who likes quick play and "something doing" all the time. A cricket match is a lengthy affair. Sometimes it lasts for two or three days. This does not suit the man of America who is interested in sport. He wants to know the score before he goes home from his day's work.